

OCA 0872-88

16 MAR 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

Chief, Retirement Division

SUBJECT:

HR 3791 - Processing Claims for Retirement

1. This office has no objections to the substance and spirit of HR-3791. However, I do have some reservations regarding the time in which Congress expects the 30 day payment policy to be effective.

2. I do not anticipate any problems in paying the generic retirement case within 30 days in the near future. On the other hand, unique cases requiring verification of prior government service and medical disability cases (MDR) pose significant problems which even automation will not resolve.

3. These atypical cases and MDR cases require coordination outside the Agency with other Government Agencies and medical doctors. Thus, our ability to adjudicate the case promptly is predicated on information provided by sources outside the Agency's control.

4. We are currently working on mechanisms to streamline the processing of these cases; but we do not believe this can be accomplished quickly or whether these efforts will ensure that all cases can be adjudicated and paid within 30 days of the application. Based on a projected timeframe of mid-1989 before RD will be fully automated, I would not anticipate meeting the 30 day standard for all cases for approximately another two years. I will keep you advised of our efforts.

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## COMMENT SHEET

STAT TO:   
Office of Congressional Affairs

STAT FROM: Compensation, Automation, and Planning

SUBJECT: H.R. 3791, Processing Claims for Retirement

Subject bill has been reviewed by the Office of Personnel and our position is as follows:

- ☐ No objection.
- ☐ Continue monitoring/OP interest.
- ☒ No CIA equities.
- ☐ Seek CIA exemption.
- ☐ Advise OP when enacted.
- ☒ Comments.

The comments submitted by RD/OP on 16 March 1988 provide a realistic assessment of the difficulties encountered in processing retirement applications which have a direct bearing on how promptly payments can be made. Their comments mirror the arguments voiced by OPM in the 22 January 1988 issue of the Federal Times (which you previously forwarded to us).

This bill would require OPM, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the bill, to conduct a study and submit a report regarding the problem of delays in processing applications for benefits under CSRS. The report would have to include a plan whereby full or partial benefits could be paid within 30 days from the date of retirement.

The Agency would have to comply with any implementing legislation that is enacted based on OPM's report or with any administrative measures published by OPM.

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28 March 1988  
Date

Name Signed

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100TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3791

To require that the Office of Personnel Management devise a plan on ways to reduce or eliminate delays in processing applications for benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System, in order to allow an individual to go from regular pay to retirement or disability retirement pay without interruption.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 1987

Mr. SAXTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

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## A BILL

To require that the Office of Personnel Management devise a plan on ways to reduce or eliminate delays in processing applications for benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System, in order to allow an individual to go from regular pay to retirement or disability retirement pay without interruption.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That (a) the Office of Personnel Management shall study and,  
4       within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
5       submit to Congress a written report relating to the problem

1 of delays in processing applications for benefits under the  
2 Civil Service Retirement System.

3 (b) The report shall contain the Office's findings with  
4 respect to the problem described in subsection (a), as well as  
5 recommendations on ways to correct such problem. In carry-  
6 ing out this Act, the Office shall particularly examine—

7 (1) the methods by which records and other infor-  
8 mation needed in the processing of applications are  
9 currently transmitted or otherwise provided by employ-  
10 ing agencies to the Office of Personnel Management;

11 (2) the procedures under which applications, once  
12 received, are considered and acted on by the Office;

13 (3) circumstances in which it might be appropriate  
14 to provide interim benefits, such as to individuals sepa-  
15 rated on account of disability, pending final action on  
16 their respective applications;

17 (4) the feasibility of allowing for the submission,  
18 and providing for the processing, of records, forms, and  
19 other matters in anticipation of an employee's retire-  
20 ment; and

21 (5) the effectiveness with which retirement coun-  
22 selors currently prepare employees for the decisions  
23 they are required to make at the time of retirement,  
24 and otherwise assist employees in the application proc-  
25 ess.

1 (c) In addition to the matters otherwise required under  
2 this section, the report shall contain a plan designed to allow  
3 the Office to provide full or partial benefits within 30 days  
4 from the date of retirement for benefits under the Civil Serv-  
5 ice Retirement System, in order to allow an individual to go  
6 from regular pay to retirement or disability retirement pay  
7 without interruption—

8 (1) if the individual involved has submitted an ap-  
9 plication which is complete except for any records or  
10 other matter which have not been provided due to ad-  
11 ministrative delays beyond the individual's control, and  
12 employment has been verified, to conditionally provide  
13 interim payments, subject to final action upon receipt  
14 of the materials outstanding.

15 (d) The report shall include specifications for any legis-  
16 lation or administrative action which the Office considers  
17 necessary.

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